

DATE: June 14, 2007

TO: Chula Vista City Councilmembers
Redevelopment Agency
CVRC Board of Directors

VIA: Jim Thomson, Interim Executive Director *JT*

FROM: Ann Hix, Acting Director of Community of Community Development *AH*

SUBJECT: The National League of Cities Roundtable on Building Equitable Communities

The National League of Cities has invited the City of Chula Vista to apply to attend the League's Roundtable on Building Equitable Communities. Cities that have expressed interest in creating more inclusive and equitable communities have been invited to apply to the three-day technical assistance roundtable, which will draw from the successful experience of ten cities nationwide. Chula Vista was invited to apply due to its recent emphasis on community strengthening activities, particularly in Southwestern Chula Vista. Cities are asked to bring a group of five to ten people, including one or more elected officials, key City staff, and active community representatives. If no elected officials attend, the application will not be accepted.

The roundtable will be held on September 9-12, 2007 in Indianapolis, Indiana. There is no cost for attending; attendees must cover travel and lodging costs only. Ten of the cities that apply will be chosen to attend; selections will be announced the week of July 16, 2007. Applications are due on Monday June 18, 2007, or shortly thereafter. Councilmembers or CVRC Directors who are interested in attending are asked to inform staff of their interest at or before the CVRC Meeting on June 14, 2007. Staff is also asking interested community partners to let staff members know if they are interested in attending.

ATTACHMENTS:

Invitation and Application to the National League of Cities' Building Equitable Communities Roundtable

PREPARED BY: Sarah Johnson, Community Development Specialist

To strengthen
and promote
cities as centers
of opportunity,
leadership, and
governance.



**National League
of Cities**

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May 8, 2007

Sarah Johnson
Community Development Specialist
City of Chula Vista
276 Fourth Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Responding to the interest you expressed, I am pleased to offer your city this special opportunity to apply to participate in NLC's upcoming technical assistance roundtable, **Building Equitable Communities**, which is being offered under a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

This event is designed for cities ready to move forward to develop a local strategy to address poverty and will assist municipal leadership teams to create local equity agendas that increase social, political, economic, and racial equity in their cities. Building on local assets and current capacities, teams will develop a vision and action plan for a more equitable and inclusive community.

The first offering of **Building Equitable Communities** will be in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 9-12, 2007. Up to 10 city teams will be given the opportunity to take significant steps to address issues of equity, inclusiveness, and quality of life for those struggling to make ends meet in their cities. Participants of this event will:

- learn how to use the powers of city hall to increase social, economic, political, and/or racial equity in their community;
- see their city's capacities in an entirely new way;
- build a team of key leaders who will develop and carry out a local equity agenda;
- be part of a growing network of peers across the country committed to equity and inclusiveness;
- develop strategies to mobilize multiple city assets for this work; and
- leave with an action plan for year-one and a vision for the agenda's future

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Many cities are currently engaged in such efforts. I have enclosed NLC's recent publication, *Tapping the Power of City Hall to Build Equitable Communities: 10- City Profiles*, which describes important work on these issues taking place in cities across the country. From initiatives that create a local culture of fairness and inclusiveness to improved services to low-income neighborhoods, from participatory governance processes to community building and leadership development, the stories of these 10 cities describe how municipal leaders are making a difference in their communities.

Enclosed is a more detailed description of this event along with the application and instructions for applying. The deadline for receipt of applications is June 18, 2007.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Phyllis Furdell, Program Coordinator for NLC's Municipal Action to Reduce Poverty Project, at 202-626-3034 or email at furdell@nlc.org.

Sincerely,



William R. Barnes

Director

Center for Research and Municipal Programs

Enclosures

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Building Equitable Communities Technical Assistance Roundtable

September 9-12, 2007 ~ Indianapolis, Indiana

An NLC Initiative to help city leaders create more equitable and inclusive communities

Description:

Building Equitable Communities is a three-day technical assistance roundtable designed for teams of municipal leaders and their partners who seek to create more equitable and inclusive communities. This technical assistance event is part of NLC's Stimulating Municipal Action to Reduce Poverty Project which is supported by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

The Roundtable draws on the experience of the 10 cities as described in *Tapping the Power of City Hall to Build Equitable Communities: 10 City Profiles*, published by NLC in March 2007. A copy of this book is included with the application materials. Each city team member will receive a copy of this book to review prior to the roundtable.

Team size should be at least five, but no more than 10 people. Each technical assistance roundtable event can accommodate up to 10 city teams. Three roundtables will be held in 2007 and 2008. The first roundtable will be held September 9-12, 2007 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In the Building Equitable Communities roundtable, city teams will:

- Learn how to use the powers of city hall to increase social, economic, political, and/or racial equity in their community
- See their city's capacities in an entirely new way
- Build a team of key leaders who will develop and carry out a local equity agenda
- Be part of a growing network of peers across the country committed to equity and inclusiveness
- Develop strategies to mobilize multiple city assets for this work
- Leave with an action plan for year-one and a vision for the agenda's future

Eligibility requirements for participating cities:

- Mayor and city council support the exploration and development of a strategy to address poverty and equity.
- At least one elected official will be part of the city team efforts to address a poverty and equity strategy and will participate in the technical assistance roundtable.
- A city team of 5 to 10 city leaders agree to attend the full three days of the technical assistance roundtable and to convene at least once prior to the roundtable. Team Information: City teams should be composed of decision makers, with at least one elected official, key city staff (e.g., community or economic development director, and/or city manager), and relevant city partners if appropriate-- educational leader, chamber official, county official, nonprofit director, etc.

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- Designation of a city team leader who will convene the team at least once prior to the roundtable, and be the contact person to NLC.
- Agreement to provide information about your technical assistance experience to NLC's independent project evaluator.
- A willingness to be part of a peer- to-peer information-sharing and mentoring process with other cities undertaking similar strategic approaches.
- Payment for transportation and lodging. The roundtable registration, materials, and meals will be provided by NLC.

Selection process:

Selection of participating cities will be based on application responses indicating the city's commitment and readiness to move forward on developing a strategy to address poverty and equity. An important factor will be the quality of the team itself. Teams must be convened by an elected city official, mayor or council member. If more than 10 cities meet the eligibility requirements, cities will be invited to participate based on the order in which their application was received. Cities meeting the eligibility requirements that are not selected will be given first priority to attend the next scheduled roundtable in the spring of 2008. NLCI will make every attempt to ensure diversity of geography and community size among city teams and roundtable events.

This completed application must be returned on or before Monday, June 18, 2007. Return information is at the end of this application. Cities selected will be announced the week of July 16, 2007.

NLC Contact:

For more information or questions, contact Phyllis Furdell, 202-626-3034 or furdell@nlc.org



APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Building Equitable Communities Technical Assistance Roundtable

September 9-12, 2007 ~ Indianapolis, Indiana

An NLC Initiative to help city leaders create more equitable and inclusive communities

CITY CONTACT INFORMATION

City/State _____

Sponsoring Mayor or Councilmember: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Project Lead or Contact: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Application Due: Monday, June 18, 2007

Mailing Address: Phyllis Furdell
National League of Cities
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004-1701
Email: furdell@nlc.org
Phone: (202) 626-3034

Cost:

Travel and lodging only

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APPLICATION

Building Equitable Communities Technical Assistance Roundtable

September 9-12, 2007 ~ Indianapolis, Indiana

An NLC Initiative to help city leaders create more equitable and inclusive communities

1. City and state _____

2. Population of city _____

3. Form of municipal
government _____

4. What are the most serious issues in your city/region related to poverty and other inequalities—
economic, racial, political, social? Describe, briefly.

5. Is your city currently working in partnership with other organizations to deal with these issues?

_____ If so, which organizations? _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

YOUR CITY'S TEAM

In the spaces below, list the name, title, and affiliation for each person you have invited or plan to invite to be on your city team. Although more than one elected official can be part of the team, the first listed member of the team **MUST** be both the convener of the team and an elected city official. That person we assume to be confirmed. Please indicate the status of each person as confirmed, unconfirmed or not yet invited. You must have at least five members on your team.

1. Elected Official and Convener

Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

2. Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Invited and confirmed _____ Invited, unconfirmed _____ Not yet invited _____

3. Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Invited and confirmed _____ Invited, unconfirmed _____ Not yet invited _____

4. Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Invited and confirmed _____ Invited, unconfirmed _____ Not yet invited _____

5. Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Invited and confirmed _____ Invited, unconfirmed _____ Not yet invited _____

6. Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Invited and confirmed _____ Invited, unconfirmed _____ Not yet invited _____

7. Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Invited and confirmed _____ Invited, unconfirmed _____ Not yet invited _____

8. Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Invited and confirmed _____ Invited, unconfirmed _____ Not yet invited _____

9. Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Invited and confirmed _____ Invited, unconfirmed _____ Not yet invited _____

10. Name _____ Title _____

Organization _____

Invited and confirmed _____ Invited, unconfirmed _____ Not yet invited _____

APPLICATION DEADLINE: ON OR BEFORE MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2007

We will announce selections the week of July 16, 2007. All teams selected to attend the roundtable will be responsible for their own transportation and lodging. All meals, event registration, and materials will be provided by NLC.

If you would like this application emailed to you in order to submit via email, contact Phyllis Furdell at furdell@nlc.org. Otherwise, return your completed application by mail or fax.

Send it to:

Phyllis Furdell

National League of Cities

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20004

Email: furdell@nlc.org

Phone: 202-626-3034

Fax: 202-626-3043